

who was I think minister to Mr Clay & several other
planters in the vicinity of Mr C. After his return
I heard him speak of attending meetings of the slaves
with Mr Majors. Mr M. graduated at Yale & married
a member of Dr B's Chh., Deacon Turnings daughter
The description, moreover, applies, not to Mr
Jones but to Mr Clay, if I understand the facts. Mr
Clay graduated at a Northern College (Harvard) Mr
Jones did not, to my knowledge.

I have almost no
doubt that Mr Clay is the individual referred to.

As you are to answer Dr B. I take the
liberty to ^{call} suggest to your notice a ~~fact~~ doctrine in
Dr B's letters which is there, but rather occult -
& which ought to be exposed & thoroughly handled -
He does not come up to the doctrine of the Board's
Report as I understand that Report. He nowhere
says, that in any circumstances, in any age, in any
degree of light, is the base simple holding of slaves,
aside from ill treatment of them in that relation,
a disciplineable offence! He everywhere implies
that it is not. And I have good reason to know
that he holds that it is not. This doctrine which
lies occult in his letters ought to be brought out
& placed in its true light.

In haste very respectfully yours

H. W. J. Cotton

Rev. J. W. S. Dutton,

New Haven, Mar. 27/46.

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New Haven March 27th 1846

Mr Phelps

Dear Sir

I rec^d yours yesterday.

Dr Bacon in a paragraph introducing his model slaveholder, says "there are obvious reasons why it would be improper for me to name him, or to identify him before the public in any such way, as would make him a subject of discussion in this part of the country, or of jealousy among his neighbors"

Of course he would not deem it proper for him to do indirectly what he declares improper to be done directly. If therefore I should ask Dr B the question you propose, - he should tell me, I should not feel at liberty to give his answer to you, without his consent, which, of course, after what he has said, he would not give.

I am free, however, to state the impressions which I have, without asking him any questions at this juncture. I cannot say I know, but I have almost no doubt, that the individual referred to is Mrs Clay of Bryan County Ga. Some years since Dr B lately deceased wife went South for her health. In the Spring he went after her. - made a visit, (I think) to Mr Clay - at any rate to Rev S. W. Magill